However, pending the issue of final sanction, a Ways and Means Advance of Rs. 15.00 crores has been released to the Government of Himachal Pradesh for carrying out relief measures in the affected areas.

Increase in price of essential commodities

406. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI RAMCHANDRA BHARADWAJ:

SHRI J. P. GOYAL:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact there has been considerable increase in the prices of essential commodites in the country;

(b) what are the comparative figures for the corresponding period during the last two years;

(c) what are the reasons for the increasing trend in the prices of essential commodities; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to bring down the prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) There has been some increase in the prices of essential commodities during the past three months. However, during the same period the prices of some commodities like edible oils and wheat have moved down or have remained steady.

(b) The relevant figures are given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix CXXXV Annexure No. 6.]

(c) The increase in the prices of essential commodities may be mainly attributed to the seasonalty factor, increase in freight and production constraints as in the case of sugar.

(d) The main thrust of the Government policy is to increase the production of essential commodities particularly the ones which are in short supply. The public distribution system is being expanded and improved. Some commodities are imported to supplement domestic supplies. The export of essential commodities is regulated. Measures are also being taken to enforce fiscal discipline and for keeping the aggregate liquidity under control.

Living Conditions in Resettlement Colonies in Delhi

407. SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Hindustan Times" dated 19th June, 1985 regarding the living conditions and lack of basic amenities in the resettlement colonies in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what measures have been taken by Government to improve the situation and to ensure effective coordination between the various agencies concerned for their proper development?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has already sanctioned a scheme for provision of additional facilities in the resettlement colonies, like laying of sewer and water lines for grant of individual water and sewer connections, improved roads and drains and over head and under ground tanks. The scheme is under execution with the Delhi Development Authority.

The Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking has reported that the position of distribution system, including street lighting in these colonies is by and large satisfactory. The power break downs which occurred in Khichripur resettlement colony due to damage to over-head lines in the heavy storm recently has been attended to and two